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Category: Beaver Memos
Date: June 2016

**John Fetzer's Spiritual Path in the 1980s:
Operationalizing his Path in the Fetzer Foundation
(June 2016)**

By the 1970s, John Fetzer was what I'd call a typical "New Ager" for someone of his (older at the time) generation, who was influenced by Spiritualism (mainly in so far as his never-ending interest in employing mediums, psychics, channelers), by Freemasonry, by Theosophy, and later, by the post-WWII UFO craze, and by Transcendental Meditation (his first serious dabbling in meditation, in 1975, but which petered out for him after a couple years) and *A Course in Miracles*. By the late 1970s, he had what might be considered a typical "New Age personal religion." This was comprised of a "lightweight" or "informal" inner practice (occasional, brief periods of meditation plus the use of "New Thought" style affirmations and the frequenting of psychics for "psychic contact") combined with belief in the coming of a new "more spiritual" astrological age beginning in the year 2000 (perhaps with the help of ETs and/or Great White Brotherhood type Masters), with the consequent "evolution of consciousness" of the human race generally.

With these New Age beliefs, by the 70s Mr. Fetzer was funding a low level of research into parapsychology, through his Fetzer Foundation.

Then, in 1982, the Clairvoyant Jim Gordon came into John Fetzer's life, bringing a series of changes to Mr. Fetzer's spiritual journey; these changes can be divided into approximately two-year periods:

1981-82: (i) Jim brought to John, and John attempted to implement elements of, the APRA (American Medical and Psychic Research Association) materials (as given to Jim by the Archangel Michael), which promised the deliverance of New Age, astral plane-based, healing technologies (literally technologically based instrumentation was promised that was to be channeled from the astral and causal plane Masters to mystic-scientists working in a lab at the Foundation ... the healing that this equipment would engender would be from ailments physical, emotional, and spiritual). This would become the focus of the Fetzer Foundation. (ii) Through channeling by Jim Gordon, John (plus members of the "Core Advisory Group" which has come to be called "The Monday Night Group") gained "direct access" for John to Jesus, to the Archangel Michael, and to Count de St. Germain, Maitreya, Kuthumi and other Theosophical Masters who, through the channelings, were directing John on how to proceed. For these two years, operating the Fetzer Foundation via the directions of the Masters given in the channelings, became, in my opinion, John's spiritual path, and these channeling sessions became his primary spiritual practice.

1983: Jim Gordon began channeling the foretelling of "a new wind." Jim as a talented clairvoyant was likely picking up on "something coming" for himself and for John. Around 1979, Jim had started hearing about Sant Mat through Mike Wunderlin. Based in Punjab, India, Sant Mat teaches the Shabd yoga meditation practice; in Sanskrit "Surat" roughly means "inner Light" or "inner sight," and "Shabd" roughly means "inner Sound." Jim told me that he actually applied for initiation into Sant Mat around this time but was turned down—because the Sant Mat guru was not "marked" to be

his guru (more practically, Sant Mat prohibited “sex outside marriage” which essentially barred gay persons in active relationships from joining).

1984: Jim met John-Roger Hinkins (aka J-R), founder of the Movement of Inner Spiritual Awareness (MSIA) and was initiated into the MSIA version of Surat Shabd yoga by J-R. A year later, John Fetzer was initiated as well. And thus the “spiritual picture” for John changed rather dramatically. No longer was operating the Fetzer Foundation to be John’s spiritual path, and no longer were Jim Gordon’s channelings to be John’s primary spiritual practice. Now the Surat Shabd meditation was John’s primary practice, and his own personal, individual, inner spiritual progress —moving up the various higher inner spiritual levels in meditation—became John’s spiritual path, or journey. And, the notion of the Fetzer Institute as a spiritual organization was replaced in the channelings by calls for a new organization with Jim Gordon to be at its head: the IIL (Institute of Inner Light), which in many ways copied MSIA (though Jim held off on initiating people into the Surat Shabd practice until 2002).

Later ‘80s: Pivoting Inward

Meanwhile, in the 1983-85 period, the Foundation was actually run by John through a four-person senior management team called the “Core Group” which consisted of four Foundation employees (Lloyd Swierenga who was Executive VP, Chuck Spence, Bruce Fetzer, and Carolyn Dailey). These four Core Group members all participated in channeling sessions with Jim and John in this period (though particular channeling sessions were often not performed for the whole Core Group, but for various subsets of the group). And during this period, the channeled messages gradually shifted: there was increasingly less information for running the Foundation and increasingly more messages about personal inner development (i.e., through the meditation practice of Surat Shabd yoga).

And then in 1987, John’s communication with his Board of Trustees changed as well. In 1987 the board was newly re-formed as a ‘professional board.’ Prior to that there was a “rubber stamp board,” which existed essentially on paper only, and in the earlier 1980s, the Foundation was actually run by John through the senior management “Core Group.” Now the new board actually took on responsibility for operating the Foundation, and a President was hired (Glenn Olds, who was a board member as well). Of the members of this new board, only Judy Skutch-Whitson and Bruce Fetzer were aware of Jim Gordon channeling sessions in previous years. For this professional board, there were no channeling sessions, ever, nor for most of the board members was there even any knowledge that there had been such sessions. By the way, John actually continued the channeling sessions right up to his death, but they became strictly private sessions with Jim. John would share portions of some of these sessions (mainly regarding past lives readings of John, Jim, and those of us around John, including board members and senior management), with me by playing the cassette tape recordings that were always made of them. The tapes of these later, private sessions were returned to Jim when John died.

In the 1987-90 period, John was still calling upon his board to set up an “in-house lab” in order to receive healing technologies from the astral plane; however John never informed this new board of the earlier Jim Gordon channelings which provided the rationale for the lab; thus this science/lab effort never “took hold” in the Institute after 1990. And, additionally, in the late 1980s John began calling for his Trustees (and the Institute staff as well) to focus on their own individual spiritual development; however, though John used much of the MSIA language and terminology in these exhortations, he never provided his board or staff with the MSIA reading materials necessary

for them to make sense of the language (possibly because some of his board was decidedly anti-MSIA, etc.—particularly Judy Whitson-Skutch, but also Glenn Olds and Princeton Engineering Professor Bob Jahn, who were particularly anti-Jim Gordon).

Thus, whereas John's own personal spiritual path could be seen as one of a more-or-less continuous long arc of "outer to inner," by 1987 the relationship between John's own spiritual journey and the mission of the Fetzer Institute became cloudy, and therefore no longer "locked together."

Here, below, are sample channelings from Jim from the 1981-82 era, the 1983 era, and the 1984 era to demonstrate what I have talking about above. And after these channelings, I'll also provide samples of John's 1989-90 writings to his board and staff showing his call (using MSIA language) for them to focus on their own spiritual progress.

Selected Jim Gordon Channelings, 1981-82

August 26, 1981: Jim Gordon's phone conversation with Mike Gergely, John Fetzer, Carolyn Dailey.

P. 1, par. 1. Jim explains Archangel Michael (AAM) coming to him in 1972 with the AMPRA materials.
P. 2, par. 2. "... Also, he (AAM) said that there would be people coming in with designs of different types of surgical equipment and non-surgical healing equipment that would be the basis for the organization to work from."

P. 3, par. 2. "... this is one of the main focuses for the organization — is to do with this equipment."

November/December 1981: a Channeled letter (via Jim) from the Archangel Michael to John.

P. 1 (listed as P. 7) "I give this dictation at this time to share with you some ideals and goals I hope will be incorporated into the Foundation as time goes on, and to share with you my vision of the development of the Foundation."

P. 1 par. 2. "There are three major divisions within the Foundation..." (actually, six are listed, including research [based on the psychic delivery of scientific devices from the Masters on the astral plane], clinical practice, education).

December 20, 1981: Jim channeling to the Monday Night Group (aka The Advisory Group or Core Advisory Group): from Jesus and Count de St. Germain

P. 1 (listed as P. 11) Jesus: "Beloved brethren—it has been many years since we have gathered together such as this ... It has been many lifetimes since we talked ... For the purpose that you have joined together again as a group ... as one ... is of great importance to humanity as a whole ... The last time we communicated with you was some 2,000 years ago..."

P. 1 (listed as P. 11), par. 3. "... 2,000 years ago we gave you a command to go forth and teach the Spirit of God ...".

P. 4 (listed as P. 14), par. 2. "This is why the Foundation must reach a point in which it can aid man's growth ... through working with certain vibrations and sounds, working with machinery that can change and alter the vibrational patterns of the aura and the chakras ... color and Sound to bring about balance within mankind ...".

P. 4 (listed as P. 14), par. 3. "John Fetzer is the driving force—the motivation upon which the Foundation is to be laid."

December 21, 1981: Jim channeling again to the Monday Night Group: from Cato (who eventually is identified as a 'higher Master' than that of the Great White Brotherhood) and Jesus

P. 3 (listed as P. 21), par. 3. "There will be instrumentation coming to you that will aid in your development ... Much of it has been developed in the past in the times of Lemuria and Atlantis ...".

P. 4 (listed as P. 22), par. 1. "The instrument ... is one that existed in Atlantis and one that was misused and brought to destruction as you have been told."

P. 4 (listed as P. 22), par. 2. "There will be other instrumentations ... within the next 25 to 35 years ... it shall be presented through the Foundation and through three individuals working with a research laboratory at that time. The Ark of the Covenant was such an instrumentation."

P. 5 (listed as P. 23), par. 2. "The Foundation is an experiment that we are conducting, just as you will conduct experiments with certain machinery presented to you, we are conducting an experiment through this Foundation in hopes to find success."

P. 8 (listed as P. 26), par. 2. Jesus Regarding Jim: "he is here to direct you upon the Path of Light."

April 29, 1982: Letter to John from Jim/Archangel Michael.

Listed as P. 38, par. 5: "It is of utmost importance that the Foundation be strong and internally harmonious and functioning by the end of 1985 to the mid-1986 for this ends the completion cycle of development for the Foundation and a new cycle of outer expression will begin for the Foundation."

July 12, 1982: Letter to John from Jim/I AM THAT I AM and Count de St. Germain.

P. 1 (listed as P. 47), par. 4. "This Foundation exists not because you want it to exist but there is a necessity. If there was not a need we would not be working with you at this time. You will have to give up much on an individual level."

Selected Jim Gordon Channelings, 1983

In 1983 the channelings move towards Sant Mat and an individual inner path of Light and Sound (when Jim started coming to Kalamazoo to speak to the Coptics, he would stay with Mike Wunderlin who was a Coptic minister but who had been a Sant Mat initiate since 1975, and by 1983, Wunderlin was no longer a Coptic Minister). Thus the focus of the channelings began moving away from the operations of the Foundation. Jim (in the channelings) also starts talking about a higher group, the IIL or "Institute of Inner Light" (which was changed to ILM, Inner Light Ministries; it turned out that IIL had already been trademarked by Industrial Light and Magic, George Lucas' company).

February 9, 1983: Letter from The Masters of Inner Light (a new, higher group which says it is uninvolved with the hierarchy and Lords of Karma, and, by extension, uninvolved with the mission of the Fetzer Foundation).

P.1 (listed as P. 64), par. 2. "... we have never attempted to contact you anytime until today. We are the collective consciousness of a group of 'Inner Masters' who work privately with the consciousness of Man. We have separated ... from ... hierarchy and the Lords of Karma ... we are not involved [with] events of the development ... today for humanity."

May 1983: Channeling of Jim (pivoting away from giving specific directions regarding the Foundation).

P. 3, par 2. Jesus: "... it is up to each of you as individuals and as a group to find the clarity and to find the answers as to the direction you as souls and as a Foundation wish to take—whether it be through education, or through healing, or through research."

P. 3, par 4. "We give direction but we leave it in your hands to fulfill according to your own soul development and capabilities."

P. 8, par 3. "Another area that is going to be very beneficial for our purpose is the development of certain electronic equipment that can free man of his physical karma and his illness. We are striving to bring about in the awareness of certain individuals, devices that can actually change the karmic pattern of man."

P. 9, par 3. Archangel Michael: The individual Inner Call Home vs. the Group Call (this is May 24, 1983).

P. 9, par 3. "An ancient call rides the winds this day calling man's soul homeward ..."

P. 9, par 5. "This call has been called many things ... The Call of God, the unspoken word" (or, in Sanskrit, Surat [Light] Shabd [inner Sound] yoga [spiritual practice]).

September 18, 1983: Channeling of Jim (Archangel Michael) to John and others including Bruce Fetzer. Setting up the IIL (ILM) incl. directing the monies be set up separately. There is a cover letter, then,

P. 2, bottom. Archangel Michael: "And so it has come to pass now that the John Fetzer Foundation has been formed and it serves as a great focus of the truth. Likewise, the Institute of Inner Light [or IIL, now Inner Light Ministries] is an organization which is similar in structure to none other on earth ..."

P. 3, par. 1. "... the IIL organization will serve as another focus, as another point of clarity and expression of the true God within."

P. 3, par 2. "And now I have been asked to give this understanding of the three levels that we have been discussing up to now. As you set up the funding project, the educational project, and the project of service—set up the monies in such a way that they are split in three different manners within the Institute [the IIL]."

February 1984: A channeling from the Theosophical Master Kuthumi, the Archangel Michael, Cato, and others including an "appearance" by "Little Fox," the "Little Running Fox" who appeared to John in a Camp Chesterfield séance 20 years before.

P. 6. Archangel Michael: "Jim, also, is beginning to serve this Light and this purpose well. Just this morning we gave him insight into certain instruments and he has begun to write them down although he does not understand what he writes ... it will be much the same as what was written in the past concerning Atlantean equipment that has been given to you by other sources."

P. 6. "This is Little Fox ... I come from the Spirit world to bring you a few words of information concerning your property."

P. 15. "Greetings, this is Cato ... at this time myself and a couple other masters are here in a conference room in Shamballa, not too far from this location ... he (Jim) needs to find a way to come forth freely and not be so tied down to an organization or group of individuals of supervision ..."

Then in March 1984, Jim travels to Egypt where he serendipitously meets John-Roger.

Selected Jim Gordon Channelings, 1984

October 30, 1984: In Tucson, Jim channeling to John and Bruce channeling the Council of Masters of Inner Light. The subject is the creation of ILM, which from here on out is identified as the “spiritual organization,” not the Fetzer Foundation. Bruce Fetzer picks up on this during the session, and asks specifically about it.

P. 12, par. 2. “The idea of the Foundation came from Spirit. But the goal of the Foundation is to serve the physical universe.”

P. 13, par 1. “... this Foundation needs the flow of Light from its soul, the Council of Masters of Inner Light [these are Masters, including Cato, who are above the Great White Brotherhood; in Surat Shabd parlance the Great White Brotherhood work from the astral and causal planes, but there are three additional, more spiritual, planes above these and other Masters who wish to work with this, in order for the Foundation to have life and to continue its flow of service as it is meant to be. But in order for the Foundation to be successful, its focus must be in that ‘90% region’ this is MSIA lingo for the physical [Ed. Note: According to J-R and MSIA philosophy, “The PHYSICAL is 10%, Spirit takes care of the 90%.”]. So it cannot change its focus to be 50% physical and 50% spiritual —this would not work. And this is why we are calling forward the idea of the Institute of Inner Light [IIL, that is, ILM]

Third Section, listed as III. “2nd” P. 5, par. 4: “... it [the IIL] can be done with the 10% [of John’s financial assets] that has been asked ... For the Foundation to do its work, it will take the 90% [the 90%/10% designation corresponding to the physical/ spiritual notions] ...”

[Ed. Note: This, again, is opposite to MSIA philosophy.]

P. 7, par. 2: Bruce Fetzer (picking up on this characterization): “Do you view the efforts of the Foundation ... as not being a spiritual process?”

P. 7, par. 5: Bruce Fetzer: “Is the development of instrumentation along the research and development effort a non- spiritual process?” Answer: “It is a very spiritual process but it is a very physical one as well.”

P. 7, par. 7: Bruce Fetzer: “Sometimes the Foundation is referred to as physical, and IIL as being spiritual. What is really the essence behind it?” Answer: “... remember, all are one in God.”

P. 5 (listed as P. 9), par. 3, “... Give 10% of the funding process in the words back to God, within the Institute [IIL] and tithe to the God within the Institute [IIL] itself. Is that understandable?”

January 27, 1985: In Tucson, Jim channeling the Council of Masters of Inner Light (Cato) to John and the Core Group.

P. 7, par. 1. JEF: “Well, I am just wondering ... if there were many, many pieces of equipment already developed and been kept under wraps, so to speak, but now might be brought forward for us to make an examination.” Cato: “There are several as we have told you in many years past that have different types of inventions on paper, if not totally developed, that will be brought forward in time. And the time is drawing near that this will come forth.”

January 28, 1985: Jim, once again in Tucson, channeling to John and the Core Group from “The Silent Ones,” a higher group that talks only about Surat Shabd yoga.

P. 4, par. 2. JEF: “We have had a lot of instruction from Cato and Jesus, Michael ... is it your suggestion that we give more attention to the spiritual side of the equation in spite of the fact that we are identified with a very physical objective in the Fetzer Foundation?” Answer: “I am not really coming forward with a discussion concerning the Foundation activities ... I was here to present to you instruction concerning individual development at this time ...”

P. 4, par. 4. JEF: You are a member of the Silent Ones, am I correct? A: “That is correct.”

John’s “Opening Remarks” to Board Meeting (March 3, 1989)

I constantly draw on the energy of the Father for guidance. It has been my hope that the Foundation would also and tenaciously so, ask the Father for guidance. We have a very serious mission to do in this world. In my view it’s a mission ordained of God. Therefore, all of us, have to seriously consider what our particular parts are in this kind of arena. ... It’s my hope that all of us identified with this endeavor will seriously consider what it means to go through self-examination to the extent of seeking soul awareness, because if you can’t find your way on this great learning planet, it’s a tragedy. It’s a real tragedy ...

“Soul awareness” is an MSIA term referring to Surat Shabd’s “5th inner level” above the physical “crown chakra.” MSIA calls this 5th level, the Soul Plane (Sant Mat’s 5th level is called, in Sanskrit, “Sach Khand,” known as the region of unconditional love). A person who can travel in their Surat Shabd meditation (in an upward spiral) to the 5th level is, according to Surat Shabd philosophy, free—that is, liberated from the wheel, the bonds, the chains, of reincarnation. MSIA labels this liberation “soul awareness.”

August 29, 1989 “Founder’s Statement—Final Principles”

Over a period of time, if a greater liberation [see the explanation in the paragraph just above] to find balance is to manifest upon this planet, this freedom [see the explanation in the paragraph just above] must first manifest. The liberation on the individual level only manifests when one cries out for freedom. Free me of these bonds, of these chains. Free me of these pains, these anguishes, free me and bring me into that place of loving. When one calls out in such a way, the consciousness of liberation is stirred within, as well as without, and liberation becomes reality. This is how the liberating action begins to free one of the downward turn in a spiral of consciousness [see the explanation in the paragraph just above], and brings one up into the higher focus, back into your higher self. It is here you will find the answers to the final definition of the Foundation’s purpose, in accordance with the agenda we have put it place. ... Remember, whatever the final verdict turns out to be, its summary will be unconditional love [see the explanation in the paragraph just above].

November 30, 1990 Hologram Dedication Ceremony

This Hologram is receiving, from the consciousness of the high Order of Melchizedek [for the meaning of this phrase, see below], a form of energy that the planet earth hasn’t seen in many a decade. That form of energy is coming from the source of the highest level, directly from the throne of the highest Spirit. And for those of you that are ready to assume a path of development and advancement for yourself, now is the opportunity—because this new form of energy is at your disposal. It will lift you up and give you exposure of the very, very highest order of Deity. It will enable you to achieve things that you never have thought of otherwise. It will carry you forward. Your intuitive powers will be improved, and you will be able to achieve all of those things of life that you wanted to get out of it this time around.

To all of you that are here, this is an opportunity that you may never have again. An opportunity is being extended here—a tremendous opportunity for everyone that is here, an opportunity that comes only once every 25,000 years [for the meaning of this phrase, see below].

In a way, this is a completion ... it could not have happened until the Institute was ready for it. The fact that it happened shows me that you are ready for it. So make use of it. Make it a part of your life and your soul and your destiny, and you will be better off for it—in this life and in the years after. God bless you all. I can't tell you how much I love you all—there's love and energy here galore.

Regarding John's statement, "The Hologram is receiving, from the consciousness of the High Order of Melchizedek": In the version of "Surat Shabd yoga" that Jim Gordon teaches, he refers to the Order of Melchizedek as an ancient origin of this tradition (this is not part of the original Persian/Northern Indian Surat Shabd tradition, or Sant Mat). And so I assume that this notion of Melchizedek was part of the 1980s MSIA teachings.

[Ed. Note: The Order of Melchizedek is a priesthood, referred to in the Bible. He was the king of [Salem](#) and priest of [El Elyon](#) ("God most high") mentioned in [Book of Genesis](#), Ch. 14. He brings out bread and wine and blesses [Abram](#) and El Elyon.^[2] The [Babylonian Talmud](#) – presents the name (מלכ־עֶלְיוֹן) as a [nickname](#) title for [Shem](#), the son of [Noah](#).^[3]

In [Christianity](#), according to the [Epistle to the Hebrews](#), [Jesus Christ](#) is identified as "a priest forever in the order of Melchizedek", and so Jesus assumes the role of [High Priest](#) once and for all. MSIA ministers are ordained in this priesthood.]

Reference between the messiah and Melchizedek appears in subsequent biblical verses: Genesis 14:18-20; I Samuel 13 Psalm 110:1-10 Matthew 22:44; 26:26-28 Luke 22:19; Mark 14:22 John 6:53 Acts 2:34 I Corinthians 11:23-25 Hebrews 4:14-15; 5:6; 5:10; 6:19-20; 7:1-21. Revelation 1:6.

Regarding John's statement, "an opportunity that comes only once every 25,000 years": this is a reference to the hermetic notion of "The Great Year." The hermetic Great Year is the time it takes for one complete rotation through the heavens of the astrological zodiac. There are twelve signs of the zodiac, and each "astrological age" is said to last approximately 2,000 years (for example, we are currently in the Aquarian Age). In addition, John's reference pertained to the MSIA version of the "Surat Shabd yoga" tradition, where it is said that the guru (whom MSIA calls the "Mystical Traveler") only comes to the planet every 25,000 years (this, by the way, is not in sync with original Indian Surat Shabd yoga philosophy, or Sant Mat, which teaches that there are always such sat gurus in incarnation). [Ed. Note: According to MSIA, it is in agreement with the Sant Mat tradition, in that it teaches that there is always a "guru" (aka Mystical Traveler) on the planet. The 25,000 year reference is to an energy force or consciousness that J-R called the Preceptor Consciousness.]

Jim Gordon also touched upon this 25,000-year notion in an August 15, 1985 lecture that is kept in the John Fetzer archives, in which he also spoke of the ancient mystical land of Atlantis as part of the story of this astrological cycle.